

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting of Arlington Tree Committee

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall

Present: Mary Ellen Aronow (Chair), Liz Pilcher (minutes), Sally Naish, Eliza Burden (Co-chair), Susan Stamps, Mike Rademacher, Ed Trembly. Visitor: Becky Edmondson.

Absent: Emily Snyder,

1. Welcome

2. DPW Tree Department Update (Mike)

- **Tree Warden:** MR will contact 2-4 candidates to schedule interviews. The opening is still posted on the website.
- **Spring Tree Ordering:** Schictel's Nursery has stock of most of our preferred trees. If MR receives no contractor bids for planting the trees, the town will give trees away with a stipulation that people plant trees in the front yard. We discussed cost and availability of trees at Mahoney's.
- **Spring Tree Planting:** MR has included language in the bid that contractors complete all planting by May 15. SJN suggested May 1 is preferable.
- **Off-berm Policy in Action:** MR mentioned that the Town is doing a study on sidewalks about compliance with ADA. Removal of trees that are damaging sidewalks may be the end result. Therefore, targeting areas for off-berm plantings where sidewalks are inadequate will be a good goal.

3. Arbor Day (April 24th) – Town activities, DPW, ATC. MR receives Blue Spruce saplings. He asked how many saplings should he request and how should they be distributed to schools. He will check availability of other species. Northeast Utilities is interested in doing a tree planting demonstration. MR suggests we give away saplings at that event.

4. Ecofest ATC Booth (March 7th) (Eliza, Liz): The ATC had a very good location. What we learned follows:

- of all display materials, people are interested in the maps. We should get them updated;
- EB was interviewed by the Arlington Public News;
- we received requests for the Town to sell trees to homeowners;
- four people signed the 'interest in joining the ATC' form. EP will forward the names to EB and MEA;
- People mentioned how many new trees were dying in the last 2 years' plantings and asked about the effectiveness of communicating watering instructions. We discussed two approaches: EP will do a press release this spring about filling gator bags, and the committee discussed handing out instructions to those who requested and received trees last fall. We need a list from MR, including emails and phone numbers of last fall's tree recipients.

--MR will ask Sacca about their 2015 watering schedule and if they want people to fill the gator bags;
--ET suggested attaching a laminated card on new trees with directions on care of the new tree;
--Kelwin Manor: The map showed few trees in this neighborhood. The neighborhood association may request a presentation about how to go about adding trees; Becky has several *Nyssa sylvatica* saplings that could be planted in Kelwin, if there is interest.
--we spoke to people who represent various 'friends of' groups in Arlington.

5. **DCR Grant – committee update.** EP and EB prepared a letter of intent to apply for a DCR grant. MR will provide a letter that the Town will commit matching funds up to \$5000.

6. **Publicity**

- **Advocate article(s) update committee on schedule.** (*2015 Publication Calendar handout*). TBD at a later meeting.
- **Website – designate a point person for info to post.** Becky Edmondson offered to maintain the ATC website. SJN will work with her. EP has all the text of Advocate articles and press releases, which she can provide to Becky.
- **Facebook – do we want to get one started.** EB wants to work on a Facebook site.
- **Tshirts/Business Cards – could we have Tshirts for sale at Town Day? Order more for new members.** TBD at a later meeting.

7. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from January and February have not been approved.

8. **Membership –**

- **Member openings listed on Town website.** Becky submitted a letter of interest about becoming a member of the ATC.
- **Advocate article.** TBD at a later meeting.
- **Town email.** TBD at a later meeting.

9. **Other Business**

- **22 Mill Street tree–exploring historic or heritage designation.** TBD at a later meeting.
- **Resident concern (email from 6 Lantern Lane) regarding tree removal, lot fragmentation – ATC follow up.** EP researched towns with and without tree protection regulations, i.e. Lexington and Newton. MR's concern is enforcement. SS and EP are willing to further explore regulation of trees on private property and will also make contact with a

few towns to find out how difficult is it to enforce and how many hearings they've had per year.

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Next meeting April 8, 2015.